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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government declined to refer the dispute for adjudication as the company incurred loss in 1952 and as there was no surplus available in 1953 for distribution as bonus.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Before a dispute is referred for adjudication, it is sent to the Labour Officer and then the matter is sent to Government for deciding whether it should be referred for adjudication or not. This process takes a lot of time. So, why not the Government make it a policy to refer all disputes raised by labour unions for adjudication? Will the Government consider this question sympathetically and refer all industrial disputes for adjudication?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : While the Government are sympathetic in this matter, the Government do not agree with the view that all industrial disputes should invariably be referred for adjudication. The Government have a discretion in the matter and they have to exercise that discretion before they decide on referring a dispute for adjudication.

* 3081 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state— 9-30 a.m.

(a) whether the Government have received a memorandum, dated 4th February 1955, from the Secretary, Malabar Plantation Group of Malabar Trade Union Congress, regarding the dispute between the plantation owners and workers in Malabar on the question of bonus for the year 1954; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Assistant Commissioner of Labour conducted conciliation proceedings in the matter on 5th August 1955 and 5th December 1955. The parties have come to an agreement on the issue of bonus for the year 1954 for the workers and the staff in the plantation estates of this State.

* 3082 Q.—SRI C. KANDASAMY (on behalf of Sri N. K. Palanisamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was an agreement between the management of the Kadri Mills, Coimbatore, and the workers on 27th August 1954 that third shift workers of the mills would be made permanent;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the agreement was violated on 7th March 1955 by the management; and

(c) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The management have implemented the agreement substantially by making 70 workers permanent; but they have violated the latter part of clause 2 of the agreement, in so far as they

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had failed to report to the Labour Officer the names of workers whose work was unsatisfactory, with a view to test them after a month.

* 3083 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation, dated 27th July 1955, from the Cochin Commercial Employees' Association on labour dispute between staff and management of Messrs. Harrisons and Crossfield, Limited, Cochin-1; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Labour Officer, Kozhikode, conducted conciliation in the matter and submitted his final report to Government on 26th September 1955. The Government have examined the conciliation report of the Labour Officer and have referred for adjudication the demand relating to fixation of age of retirement of persons employed in Messrs. Harrisons and Crossfield, Limited, Fort Cochin.

* 3084 *Q.*—SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is an industrial dispute between Messrs. East Asiatic Company, Limited, and Messrs. William Jacks, Limited, Madras, and their clerical staff in regard to their wage scales and dearness allowance?

(*b*) if so, the scales of wages and dearness allowance that were in existence when the conciliation proceedings began; and

(*c*) whether this dispute has been referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) *to* (*c*) The answer[a] is placed on the table of the House.

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : Sir, in view of the fact that the dispute in the East Asiatic Company, Limited, was referred to for adjudication, will the Government reconsider their decision in cases where adjudication has been refused in commercial concerns with regard to wage scales?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may bring to the notice of the Government about concerns where he thinks that there is room for reconsideration of the decision of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : As the Hon. Minister for Public Health is not attending the House to-day, questions Nos. 3085, 3090, 3094 and 3097 will be taken up at the next sitting of the Assembly.

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 343 infra.